

# INFORMATION REPORT

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
 REPORT NO.

25X1X

SUBJECT 1. Rubber Conditions in Southern Thailand  
 2. Communist Cell in Hat Yai

25X1A

DATE OF  
 INFO. July 1951

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1. The smoking, milling, packing and shipping of rubber in Thailand is conducted entirely by Chinese and European firms the most active of which is Siam Paktai,<sup>1</sup> a subsidiary of Lee Kong Chian. Hat Yai (100-20, 07-00) is the rubber center and Songkhla (100-40, 07-20) is the port through which much of the rubber is shipped.
2. The actual growing of the rubber is done by a few Chinese owners of large estates and innumerable Thais with small holdings. The low quality of their produce, which averages no better than a No. 3 ribbed smoked sheet by R.M.A.<sup>2</sup> standards, is attributable to many factors. For one thing, the soil is dead and requires considerable application of chemical fertilizers; in addition, bark disease is rampant as the result of improper tapping methods and the failure to control insects; transport is primitive and much of the rubber is brought in to the merchants by bicycle as only a jeep can travel on even the best main roads. Latex is collected under filthy conditions, and oil from the mills is visible on the majority of the finished sheets.
3. In order that the maximum dollar return on Thailand's rubber-producing areas may be obtained, a long-term project requiring five to ten years for completion must be undertaken to correct these adverse conditions. As most of them are the result of ignorance, advantage will be taken of the US Economic Cooperation Administration's offer of technical assistance. Plans are being drawn up to establish an advisory office at the Thai Government's agricultural experimental station at Hat Yai.

25X6

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25X1A

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1. 25X1A [REDACTED] Comment. According to the 1949-1950 Thailand Business Directory, this firm has offices at 28 Anuwong Road, Bangkok, and the manager is Tow Tia Sae (TU Ting-sheng, 杜定省).
2. 25X1A [REDACTED] Comment. Probably the Rubber Manufacturers Association.
3. 25X1X [REDACTED] Comment. The general security of the area is proof that these [REDACTED] have attained considerable success.
4. [REDACTED] Comment. This cell has been practically dormant, probably because of surveillance.

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